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In Memorium



REV. JAMES REEB
Martyr

Church Council Widens Rights Drive

Housing Relief Forlorn Hope!

Expected Bill Apparently Dead

LAS VEGAS **VOICE** 10¢

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Senate Awaits Compromise Rights Bill

DESPITE EXPECTATIONS by Southern Nevada civil rights leaders that a separate bill prohibiting discriminatory practices in the area of private housing would be introduced at the current session of the Nevada Legislature, it was virtually certain today that no such proposal will be presented to the state lawmakers before they adjourn.

Although a rough draft of a bill covering private housing was worked up some time ago with the assistance of legislative aides to the state administration, all signs indicate it will not be formally introduced in the Legislature at this session.

Meanwhile, the fate of several other proposals of great importance to the colored citizens of Nevada hung in the balance in Carson City as the 53rd session of the Legislature neared an end, probably next week.

As this is written, it appeared likely that a civil rights bill (AB-404) prohibiting discrimination in certain areas of public accommodations and employment would be passed by the Assembly, perhaps yesterday or today, and sent to the Senate for consideration by that body.

Many local civil rights leaders went along with the broad provisions of AB-404 despite misgivings as to the bill's adequacy because they understood a separate bill covering housing would be introduced at this session of the Legislature.

AB-404 was sponsored by Clark County Democrats Mel Close Jr., chairman of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, and Vernon Bunker, head of the Clark County legislative delegation. It represents a "compromise" between a bill (AB-159) originally sponsored by the Democratic

administration and introduced by a bi-partisan coalition of five Democrats and two Republicans, and demands for a much "stronger" act by representatives of various state civil rights groups.

ANOTHER BILL, AB-424, introduced by Republicans Ed Fike, Clark, and Coe Swobe, Washoe, and reportedly designed to void restrictive covenants in the sale or transfer of real property in the state, also was battling around the Legislature at a late hour Tuesday as the VOICE went to press, but attempts by this paper to pinpoint its whereabouts proved futile.

Also in a state of suspended animation at press time was joint Assembly resolution, AJR-20. This proposal by Republicans James Wood, Washoe, and Eric Palludan, Churchill, would saddle Nevada with an amendment to the state constitution along the lines of California's notorious Proposition 14, which nullified that state's Rumford Act prohibiting discrimination in private housing.

At last report, AJR-20 was bottled up in the Assembly Judiciary Committee, but attempts to shake it loose for action by the lower house was expected at any time according to Chairman Close.

Earle White and James Anderson were sent to Carson City last Monday by the Las Vegas NAACP in an attempt to strike out certain undesirable amendments to AB-404 proposed by recalcitrant members of Close's committee.

(See RIGHTS, page 15)

Elks Celebrate



BIRTHDAY BASH--Elks of Paran Lodge recently honored members who were born in first quarter of year at big birthday party at Bonanza Rd. headquarters. Participating in cake-cutting ceremony are honorees (from left) Esquire Monroe Phillips, Esteemed Lecturing Knight Clarence Guice and Tom Bowser.

Northern Ghettos New Target

PORTLAND, ORE.--Expansion of its civil rights activities this year to include involvement with the problems of Negroes living in the ghettos of cities outside the South was announced at a general board meeting of the National Council of Churches here.

Despite speculation that the Council would move cautiously in its future efforts to help Negroes because of widespread criticism of its recent activities in Mississippi and other parts of the South, the Rev. Dr. Robert Spike, executive director of the Council's Commission on Religion and Race, made it clear that the work was going to be intensified.

Dr. Spike's commission directs its own program and does not need approval from the Council's board. Another group, the Commission on

the Delta Ministry, has been set up to take over the Council's civil rights activities in the South.

Cleveland, Ohio, has been selected as the pilot city for the Council's civil rights work in the North. The emphasis in that area will be on voter registration in an effort to "help the Negro find and utilize his political power," according to Dr. Spike.

"Unlike the South," Dr. Spike said, "there is no serious impediment to voting in the Northern ghettos, but there has been a feeling among many who live in these ghettos that voting doesn't accomplish much."

Dr. Spike said that if the energy and emotions that touched off the Harlem "riots" of last year can be channeled in the proper political (See COUNCIL, page 14)

Operation Independence Seeks Project Director

LOCAL RESIDENTS with masters degrees in sociology, psychology or related fields are invited to apply for the position of Project Director for a Community Action Program in West Las Vegas.

Research experience is a requirement for the Operations Independence job, which will pay a minimum of \$10,000 per year.

Applications, including a resume of qualifications, should be submitted to the Screening Committee, Operations Independence Planning Board, 1165 Balzar Ave., Las Vegas, Nev., by April 5, 1965.